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ABSTRACT

The educational system of Saudi Arabia underwent significant changes from 1974-76 in areas of teacher education, modernization of curriculum and instruction on elementary and secondary levels, and in expansion of higher education facilities. Reasons advanced by the Ministry of Education for these changes include an increase of funds for educational purposes, realization of new school building construction as part of Saudi Arabia's five-year development plan (1974-79), and increased interest in curriculum development for girls and special education students. Teaching methods and equipment which were adapted or borrowed from Egypt, the United States, and UNESCO include a reading machine for the blind, teacher training in physiotherapy, and curriculum subject area film series. Two universities and a Center for Oriental Studies were established in 1976 and regulations for post graduate studies at the University of Riyadh were changed to conform to western standards. Changes in secondary and intermediate education center around the introduction of modern science and mathematics, integration of mechanics with physics, increase in guidance and counseling services to girls, and expansion of school lunch and medical services. A Regional Office of Education was established in 1976 to co-ordinate cultural and educational affairs of the Arab Gulf States. (Author/DB)

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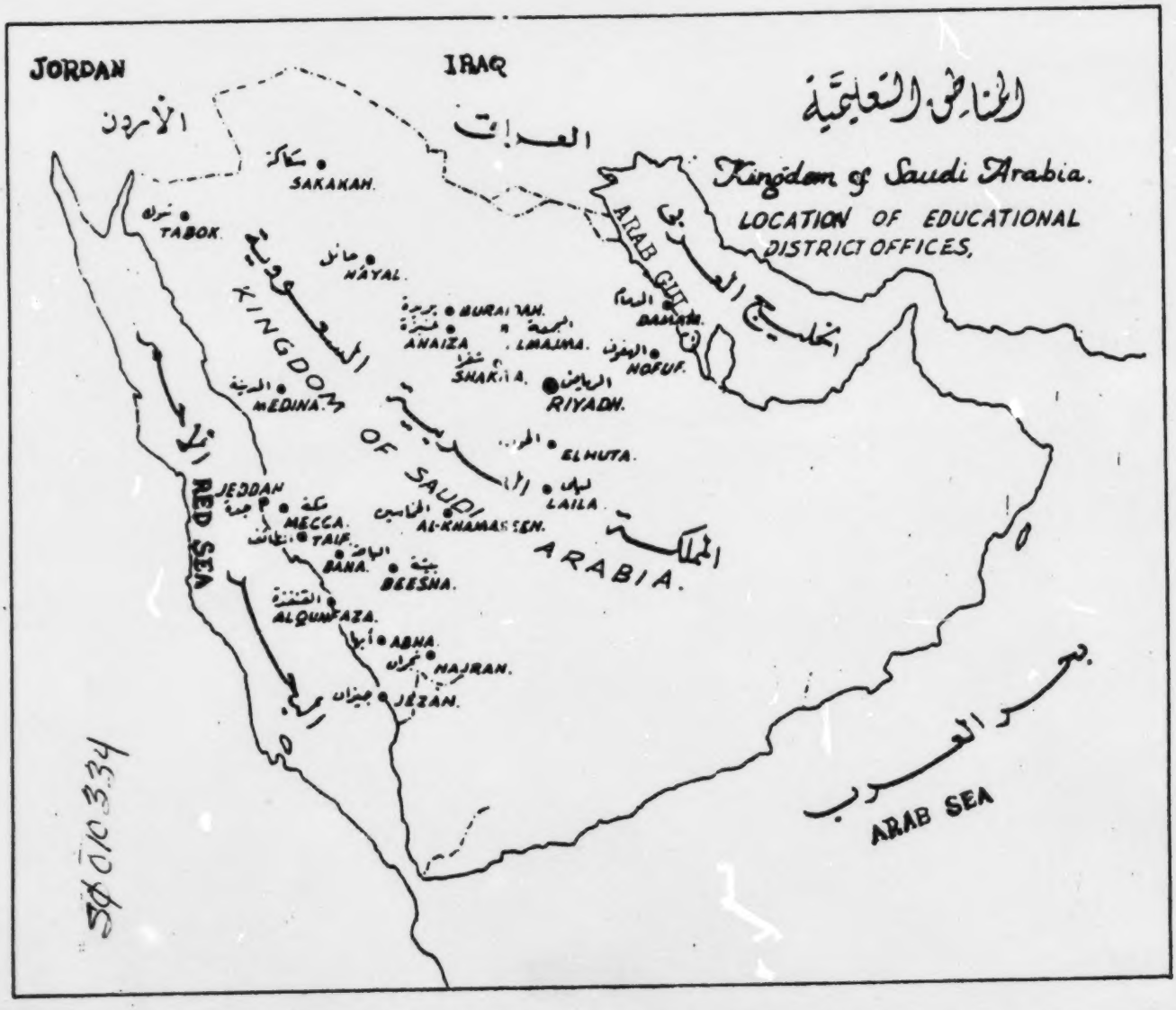
KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

The Bi-Annual Report of the Ministry of Education
1975 and 1976

PRESENTED TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF EDUCATION

GENEVA

for its 36th Session - September 1977



In the name of Allah the beneficient the merceful

Introduction

Education sector in Saudi Arabia has witnessed a great development during 1395 - 1396 H. , corresponding to 1975-1976 A.D., within the framework of general development of the country in various sectors. This development is represented quantitatively in the increase of number of schools, universities, institutes and various educational institutions as well as in the number of male and female teachers, Such development is also represented qualitatively in adjustments and modifications made to education policies, curriculum, modern educational techniques and educational services as breifly demonstrated in the following pages.

Expenditures of Education

1975-1976

1. Education budget in 1975 reached SR. 3.760.284.000 which represents 8.2 % of the General budget and increased to SR. 12.940.937.000 which represents 11.7 % of the state budget.

2. Ministry of Education was alloted SR. 2.068.365.000 which represents 55 % of education budget. This was increased to SR. 8.911.785.000 in 1976 which represents 68.9 % of education budget.

The following table shows education budget distributed according to competent authorities in 1974-1975/1975-1976. This increase was reflected in various levels of education quantitatively and qualitatively as shown in this report.

- Percentage of Education Budget to State Budget
- Percentage of the Budget of the Ministry of Education to total Education Budget

1974/75 - 1975/76

Percentage of the Ministry of Education Budget	Budget of Ministry of Education S.R.	Percentage of Education Budget to state budget	Education Budget S.R.	State Budget S.R.	Fiscal Year
55.0	2.068.365.000	8.2	3.760.284.000	45.743.000.000	1974/1975
68.9	8.911,785.000	11.7	12.940.937.000	110.935.000.000	1975/1976

State Budget for Education

1974/75 - 1975/76

	1974/1975	1975/1976
Ministry of Education	2.068.366.000 55%	8.911.785.000 68.9%
Thager Schools	14.868.000 0.4%	28.084.000 0.2%
Assema Institute	18.116.000 0.5%	46.473.000 0.4%
Girls Education Administration	859.772.000 22.9%	1.857.021.000 14.3%
Riligious Institutes	112.445.000 3%	125.021.000 1%
Islamic University Of Medina	40.154.000 1.1%	146.619.000 1.1%
University of Riyadh	371.675.000 9.9%	774.768.000 6%
University of King Abdul-Aziz	171.853.000 4.5%	455.135.000 3.5%
University of Petroleum & Minerals	84.590.000 2.2%	310.752.000 2.4%
College of Girls Education	18.441.000 0.5%	47.490.000 0.4%
University of King Faisal	———	101.854.000 0.8%
Islamic University of Emam Mohammed Bin Saud	———	135.935.000 1%
Total Percentage	3.760.284.000 100%	12.940.937.000 100%

Quantitative increase in number of schools at various levels

Number of schools increased from 1975/1975 to 1975/1976 as follows;-

1. Elementry from 3028 to 3377
2. Intermediate from 596 to 647
3. Secondary from 111 to 129
4. Teachers education institutes from 61 to 76
5. Technical education from 17 to 44
6. Special education from 43 to 45
7. Literacy and adult education from 1342 to 1654

Number of schools at various levels of education

Type of education	male	female	total	male	female	total
Elementary	2065	842	8203	2414	963	3377
Intermediate	424	117	647	476	120	596
Secondary	84	26	111	103	26	129
Teachers institutes	23	53	76	30	32	61
Technical education	13	4	17	40	4	44
Special education			42			45
Literacy	1020	322	1342	1196	458	1654

School Buildings

I. Elementry Level:

Elementry schools in government buildings represents 19% of total number of schools in 1974/1975, others occupy rented buildings which are not suitable for achieving the required quality of education. Five years plan therefore provides for expansion in government owned school buildings. In 1975/1976 the following schools have been provided for all over the kingdom:-

105	Elementry schools	24	classroom each.
86	Elementry schools	18	classroom each.
16	Elementry schools	15	classroom each.
40	Elementry schools	12	classroom each.
37	Elementry schools	9	classroom each.
44	Elementry schools	6	classroom each. for villages
328	Elementry schools	5385	classrooms

other 417 classrooms have been provided for in existing government buildings for increase of capacity, this beside 131 liberaries and 39 halls for art education.

II. Secondary Schools:

23 secondary schools have been opened this year of which nine are separate and 4 in compound with intermediate schools with necessary facilities.

In 1976/1977 provisions were made for establishing 18 schools in different education districts with 9 to 30 classrooms each, provisions were also made for establishing 84 rooms in existing schools to serve as liberaries labaratories and permenent exhibitions

Quantitative development in number of male and female teachers at various levels of Education

Number of male and female teachers has increase from 1975 to 1976 as follows:

1. Elementary level from 28953 to 33634
2. Intermediate level from 6792 to 8064
3. Secondary level from 1840 to 2194
4. Teacher Institute from 1047 to 1139
5. Technical Education from 437 to 1246
6. Special Education from 550 to 581
7. Literacy from 5376 to 5752

The following table shows number of male and female teachers according to sex:

Level	1974 - 1975			1975 - 1976		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Elementary	20446	8507	28953	23477	10157	33634
Intermediate	5058	1734	6792	5738	2326	8064
Secondary	1377	463	1840	1592	602	2194
Teachers Ins.	780	267	1047	838	301	1139
Tech. Educat.	394	43	437	1199	47	1246
Spec. Educat.	439	111	550	469	112	581
Literacy	4317	1059	5376	4317	1435	5752

Quantitative Development in number of pupils in 1975/1976

Number of pupils increased from 1975 to 1976 as follows:

1. Elementry Level from 607849 to 657956
2. Intermediate level from 117828 to 137251
3. Secondary level from 32809 to 38779
4. Tech. Education from 3408 to 4063
5. Spec. Education from 1805 to 1841
6. Literacy participants decreased from 86193 to 82350 during the period under review.

The following table show distribution according to sex

Number of pupils on 1975 and 1976 at various levels of Education according to sex:

Level	1974/1975			1975/1976		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Elementary	391405	216444	607849	420011	237045	657956
Intermediate	80717	37111	117828	91037	46214	137251
Secondary	22606	10203	32809	25717	13061	38778
Teachers	10654	4805	15459	10587	406[illegible]	14651
Tech. Education	3408	—	3408	4063	—	4063
Spec.Education	1566	239	1805	1584	257	1841
Literacy	62911	23282	86193	55603	26747	82350

Audio Visual aids for special education

1. Aids for Bling institutes:

General directorate for special education has introduced embossed aids to help in teaching social sciences, science, and mathematics.The first plase of this project has already started late in 1976. It is planned to produce 40.000 copies. The Ministry of Education has provided the institutes with Thermoform machines for the teachers themselves to produce these aids by the use of plastic sheets.

Work is underway for establishing four language labouratouries for the blind institutes.

2. Buildings for special education institutes;

a- The budget of 1975/1976 included provisions for the establishment of nine units for the institutes of the blind,dum and deaf and the mentaly handcapped.

b- Deaf institute have been provided with audiograms equipments for practicing to talk, sound proof booths and multitype individual earphones.
Blind institutes have been provided with thermoform equipments, brail writers and slates, geometrical aids and accesories, specially modified tape recorders, tools and equipments for household, tools and equipments for vocational rehabilitation for the blind and sports tools and appliances.

Curriculm achievements during 1975/1976

1. Tentative programs have been worked out for vocational sections of blind institutes as well as for physical education for all categories of special education institutes at elementry level.
2. New curriculm for the secondary school levels for girls has been developed to provide those girls with prevocational experience beside academic knowledge.

3. Curriculm has been worked out for food industries division of vocational training sections for the female blind institute.

Other achievement for special education

1. In 1976 the ministry established dormetaries for the blind institutes in Riyadh, Mecc and Abha.
2. Physiotherapy facilities has been establish in Riyadh to serve all special education institutes.
3. Seventeen teachers were sent to Egypt to specialize in various categories of special education, other five were sent to U.S.A. for the same purpose at various levels.
4. A specialist has been sent to U.S.A. for a training in the use of Opticam (Reading machine for the Blind in English) and to study feasability of using it in Arabic.

School days are reduced to five instead of six per week as follows:

Institute	pre-elementry	lementry	intermediate	secondary
Blind	—	35	35	35
Deaf	24	30	30	—
Mentally handcapped	4	4	—	—

Each period is 45 minutes except the last one which is 30 minutes set aside for prayers.

Literacy and Adult Education

1. By 1975/1976 second five year plan for literacy and adult education was initiated, the functions are proceeding as planned.

2. Literacy and adult education share in the budget of the Ministry of Education amounted to SR.19.190.099 in 1975 and increaded to 48.239.447 in 1976.

3. Literacy and adult Education schools increased from 1020 with 2810 classes and 63428 participants in 1974/1975 to 1295 schools with 2354 classes and 67080 participants in 1975/1976.

4. Participants in summer campaigans were 1568 in 1975 and 776 in 1976.

New trends and achievements in girls education 1975/1976

Curriculum

Girls teachers training

A new curriculum identical to that of general education has been introduced progressively starting 1976 to cover the whole stage within three years. Some components of the general education curriculum were discarded due to the nature of teachers training curriculum which involves other components such as methods of teaching and in the service training. Other components pertinent to Girls education were added.

General Secondary Education

In 1975 a new curriculum for Secondary Education started progressevely with first form secondary level where due attention is being given to:

A. Psycology and subjects of the stage.
B. Intellectual and psycological nature of pupils at this stage.
C. Stressing the significance of various activities in line with the nature of the moslem girls.

Achievements in Educational aids 1975/1976 for girls

Maps and portraits

1. 24 portraits and models have been developed for various subjects .
   e.g. Science , mathematics, history, geography, and English and Arabic languages.
2. A silk screen for printing portraits was provided.
3. Demonstration Hardboards for teaching arithmatics, Geometry, and English and Arabic Grammer has been provided.
4. A photo Finishimg unit for production of photographs that can not be produced in drawing has been established.

Buildings

126 building units have been constructed during 1975/1976 as follows:

1. A school girls Hospital.
2. Sewing training centers.
3. 67 elementary school buildings each accomodating 33 class-rooms.
4. 16 elementary schools each accomodating 15 classrooms.
5. 17 elementary schools each accomodating 9 classrooms.
6. 11 intermediate school buildings of 23 and others of 15 classrooms.
7. 6 secondary school buildings of 23 and others of 15 classrooms.

Films and Projectors

1. UNICEF provided 36 film projectors and 2232 films covering science and social science subjects.
2. UNESCO provided 36 film projectors and 120 films on science, social sciences and art education.

Lnguages Laboratories

1. 1975/1976 budget included provisions for the establishment of 14 English langaage labs in Jeddah Dammam, Ehsa, Eniza and other districts.
2. Other four English labs have been installed in Riyadh, Taief, Jeddah and Medina.
3. Teachers training institutes are provided with tape recorders for teaching English language.

Higher and University Education

New Universities Established

1. King Faisal University:

A Royal decree was promulgated on 28.7.1396 (1976) to establish King Faisal University in the Eastern Province.

The new university comprises four main faculties:

1. Faculty of Agriculture.
2. Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.
3. Faculty of Medicine.
4. Faculty of Engineering.

Arabic is the working language of this University.

2. University of Petroleum and Minerals:

The faculty of Petroleum and Minerals was developed in 1975 to a university of three colleges:

1. Faculty of Engineering Sciences.
2. Faculty of Applied Engineering.
3. Faculty of Applied Science.

This university is an independent accademic institution sponsered by a council headed by the Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources.

A New Center for Oriental Studies
King Abdul-Azis University

In collaoration with other faculties of the university, Faculty of Arts supports post graduate studies to be concerned with major fields of Arabic studies with emphasis on the Arab Peninsula:

Objectives

1. Promotion of joint scientific research and study in human and social sciences related to the Islamic Orient, emphasizing those related to the Arab Peninsula.

2. Granting Degree Masters in abovementioned fields

Method of study:

Degrees are granted in either of the following ways:

1. Study Unit method participent completes 26 official hours.
2. 10 official hours, secondary specializtion.
3. Participant passes examination for secondary and main specialization.
4. Six official hours, achieved through working out the masters degree.

Subjects of Specialization:

- Arabic Language: for non moslem foreigners.
- Islamic studies: for non moslem foreigners.
- Sociology.
- History.
- Geography.

Post graduate studies of The University of Riyadh.

New regulation for 1975 (1395 H)

The Suprime council for the Universities adopted in 22.5.1395 H (10.6.1975) new regulationsfor post graduate studies in the faculties of Arts, Science, Pharmacology and Education. The new regulations mainly covers the following:

1. Stipulation of granting Masters Degree.
2. Stipulation of granting PH. D.
3. Rules and procedures of post graduate studies; admission, registration and courses.

University Buildings

Due to expansion of Riyadh University in respect of admission to various faculties, a new location has been assigned, blue prints has been approved and work is underway for the construction of the new University Buildings.

First phase of construction of faculty of medecine is scheduled to be completed by mid 1977, second phase by 1978/1979.

Extensions are being made, however, to the existing buildings and equipments and other facilities are being provided e.g:

1. Laboratory for engineering and nuclear science.
2. An offset machine for printing books and reseach papers and publications.
3. Facilities for mathematics , physics, geography, and geology studies.

New Trends in Curriculum

A. Secondary Level.

1. Teacher's guide book is being worked out.
2. Mechanics is integrated with Physics.
3. Mathematics periods is reduced from 9 to 8 week.
4. Modern Mathematics are introded to second and third forms where it was tentative in the first form in two schools.
5. In 1975 modern Mathematics was generalized all over the Kingdom.
6. Teachers training in modern mathematics strated and is in progress.
7. Science text books for first form secondary have been revised.

B. Intermediate Level

1. Science and mathematics curriculum are being worked out upon contract with American University, Bierut.

2. Co-operation was established between the Ministry of Education and University of Riyadh for working out new curriculum for Arabic Language and social sciences.

C. Teachers Training

1. Two centers for science and mathematics were established in Riyadh and Dammam for teachers training. Course duration is 2 years.
2. Plans have been developed for intermediate colleges, for graduation of elementary teachers. Course duration is 2 years.
3. Participants were sent for study missions abroad for Masters Degree to work as teachers in intermediate colleges.

New Type of Secondary Education

The new type introduced by the Ministry of Education is called " Comprehensive Education " for including all branches of knowledge appropriate to Secondary Education. It may not be called comprehensive as Religion and human relations are alloted only 9 official hours which is different from any concept of comprehensiveness.

Groups of subjects of study:

1. Religion and human relations, one section.
2. Languages and social sciences, four sections.
3. Mathematics and natural sciences, 2 sections.
4. Education
5. Commerce
6. Agriculture
7. Industry

} being introduced progressively

Secondary Education under this type is completed after 120 official hours of study. Minimum hours per form are 15 and maximum 25.

Regional Office for Education

This office came as a result of the first GulfStates Conference for Ministers of Education.

Organization

Member States are:

1. Arab Emirates.
2. Bahrain.
3. Kuwait.
4. Saudi Arabia.
5. Omman.
6. Kattar.

Functions

1. Collecting and analyzing data on education problems for exploring appropriate solutions.
2. In vestigating systems of education and establishing educational and cultural co-operation.
3. Considering commcn educational issues.
4. Promotion of learning and education with a view of enhancing the aspirations of Arab moslem Uma in Unity and modern civilization.

The office shall establish cultural common institutions and educational centers for the promotion of cultural and educational levels, exchange of experiences and experiments, normalization of degrees, enhancement of scientific research and definition of Arab Islamic culture and contemperary Arab Islamic thought beside spread of Arabic Language and helping in teaching it in foreign countries special, Islamic ones.

The office shall convene the meetings of Ministers of Education in member states and work for implementation and follow up of their resolutions.

The office is located in Riyadh and consists of:

a. Executive Board.
b. Chairman of Ex-Board.
c. General Administration.
d. Offices, centers and other machineries that will be established.

This office shall be a means, by God's help , for inte.- gration of Education objectives for the interest of education-

Educational Services

In 1974/1975 S.R. 2.5 Millions were allocated for book supplies for school liberaries and more than double this sum for furniture 2374liberaries benefited by this allocation.other services included:

1. Children Magazine.
2. Indexing and classification of books supplied.
3. Producing a bibliography for liberaries.
4. Training courses for liberarians.

Physical Education

Flexible plan for physical education 1974/1975 was worked out. It included introduction of programs to all elementary schools.

Physical education budget included provisions for new programs and supply of facilities and equipments.

Five year plan included provisions for:

21 Compound sports field units.

2 Secondary physical education institutes.

387 Basketball fields.

School Broadcast

Concern and interest in school Broadcast is growing increasingly, groups are formed for such activity and facilities are being progressively provided.

School Theater

In view of the major concern with theater at the national level, a tentative scheme for school theater was conducted by Education Districts under the auspices of specialists, the scheme proved a success and is encouraged by technical and financial support all over the Kingdom. More than 200 supervisors have been trained.

Parents and Teachers Councils

Parents are responsive to attend meetings of these councils to discuss pupils problems and help in finding solutions thereto.

School Nurrition

In 1974/1975 A.D. 368164 pupils recieved school meals which cost S.R. 63.983.038

In 1975/1976 the program expanded to cover 196.200 elementary and secondary pupils and cost S.R. 124.960

A hot meal is given to vocational school pupils that cover 3050 and cost S.R. 5.712.800

Dermitaries of special education covered in 1974/1975 a number of 1396 recepients with a cost of S.R. 4.260 74 and in 1975/1976 covered 2043 with a cost of 8.198.361

School Medical Units

Type of Unit and employee	1974/1975	1975/1976
Central Unit	1	1
Central Unit	23	23
Sub- unit	6	12
Physicians	119	140
Pharmacologists	11	19
Assistant Pharmicologists	38	43
X Ray Specialists	5	8
Laboratories Assistants	12	14
Nurses	92	110
Recepients of Health Services	856571	676361
Recepients of Protective Services	454 78	528807
Number of day visits to remote areas	1007	1116
Number of recepients	121577	177839
Operation Budget	SR14 millions	SR32 millions
Unit Buildings Constructed		4
Main Unit Buildings Constructed		8
Sub Unit Buildings Constructed		16
Cost of Constructions		SR 165 Millions
Mobile dentist unit		2
School hospital in Riyadh which cost SR. 49 millions		1

Social and Psycological Services of Girls Administration

Female social workers have been recruited to help in sloving social problems of girls on the basis of Islamic principles and scientific and technical approach.

They also help in promoting and developing girls talents.